

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's important to make your
voice heard.

Send Letters to the Editor
at toinie175@gmail.com

Pen: The strongest weapon

All of us have a powerful weapon in our hands through which we can reach every corner of the world and fight without injuring anyone. This weapon is none other than the “Pen”. There are many great leaders who fought using the pen. A pen is used to fight for justice, equality and freedom. It is used to fight against discrimination, child labour, women's inequality and racial discrimination. All citizens can express their



feelings and desires through the pen. So let's lift our weapon and make our future bright. Someone had rightly said: “Pen is mightier than a sword”. I would like to add: “Pen connects you to the whole world”.

M ASEEL AHMED, class VIII, HMR
International School

Global warming: We must act quickly

The biggest issue in today's world is global warming. Global warming is the rise in temperature which causes Ozone layer depletion. This is triggered by many actions like abnormal use of fossil fuels, deforestation as well as improper disposal of waste especially single-use plastic. Many climate activists like Greta Thunberg, Vanessa Nakate and Lilly Platt are creating awareness about global warming. We know that global warming has caused wildfires in Australia and the US and the ice caps are melting fast. We can contribute towards decreasing this by following a few measures like using bicycles for short distance commuting, planting more saplings and trees and avoiding using single-use plastics. As citizens we can also segregate the waste as



recyclable, compostable and landfill waste in our homes. We should save Earth not only for ourselves but also for future generations.

RP HASINI, class VI, DAV Public School,
Velachery, Chennai

Tame your anger

Anger is an emotion that is common to all of us. But only those who can control their own anger are mentally stable. This is because anger makes people go crazy and they end up doing something even crazier. As students, even if we have a thousand problems we still need to be positive by not reacting to them by remembering this quote: “If life shows you a hundred problems to make you sad and angry then show life a thousand reasons to smile and be happy”. Only when we are good at controlling our emotions can we be conscious of what is happening. And to control your anger you should first think before you speak, and express your anger only when you calm down. Remember to take enough rest and find possible solutions without holding a grudge against someone or something. After all, only you end up being the loser with all that stress.

T SAI SUBHIKSHA, class IX, Suprabhat Model
High School, Hyderabad



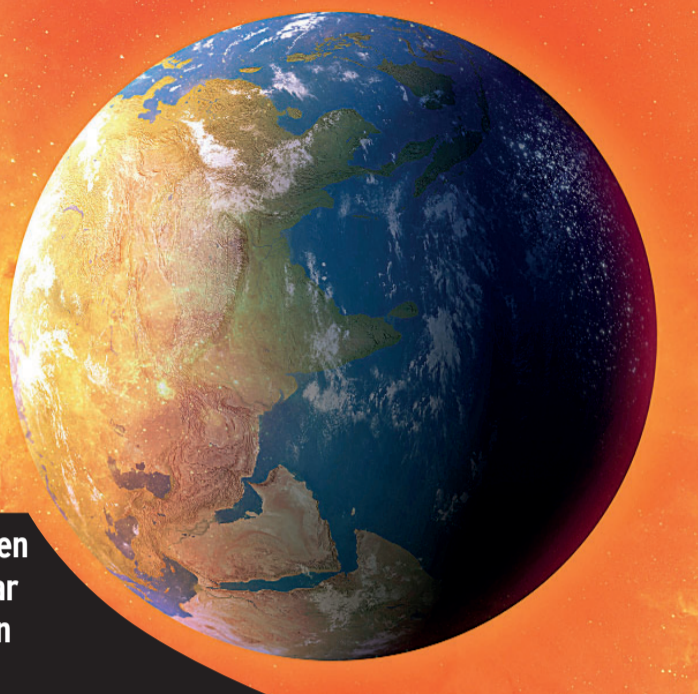
ONE WORLD, DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Explore diversity in vision and figure out how the same topic may be viewed differently by different folks. This is a mirror to society and life

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What is the FUTURE of our sun?

Even if Earth spends the rest of its life escaping alien attacks, dodging space rocks, and avoiding a nuclear apocalypse, there will come a day when our own sun will eventually destroy us... Should we worry?



Bleeding Earth dry

All good things eventually come to an end. Every book has a final chapter, every pizza has one last bite, and every person has a dying breath. And one day, about four or five billion years from now, the sun will burn through its last gasp of hydrogen and start burning helium instead. “Once hydrogen has stopped burning in the core of the sun, the star has formally left the main sequence and can be considered a red giant,” Jillian Scudder, an astrophysicist at the University of Sussex said. “It will then spend about a billion years expanding and burning helium in its core, with a shell around it where hydrogen is still able to fuse into helium.”

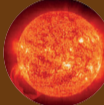
DEATH OF THE SUN

Sun-like star



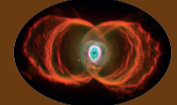
This is the longest, most stable period of a star's life. It converts hydrogen to helium in its core, generating heat and light.

Red giant



As the nuclear fuel becomes depleted, the core contracts and outer layers expand.

Planetary Nebula



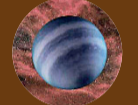
Now the outer layers of the star start to drift into space. The star loses most of its mass to the nebula.

White dwarf



The star cools and shrinks; it will eventually be only a few thousand miles in diameter! No nuclear reactions take place and the faint star radiates its heat into space.

Black dwarf



Eventually the star has lost all its heat to space and is now cold and dark.



In approximately 5 billion years, the sun will begin the helium-burning process, turning into a red giant star. When it expands, its outer layers will consume Mercury and Venus, and reach Earth.

As the sun sheds its outer layers, its mass will decrease, loosening its gravitational hold on all the planets. So all planets orbiting the sun will drift a little further away. When the sun becomes a full blown red giant, Scudder said, its core will get extremely hot and dense while its outer layer expands... a lot. Its atmosphere will stretch out to Mars' current orbit, swallowing Mercury and Venus.

Although the sun's atmosphere will reach Mars' orbit, Mars will escape, as it will have wandered past the reach of the sun's expanding at-

mosphere. Earth, on the other hand, has two options: either escape the expanding sun or be consumed by it. But even if our planet slips out of the sun's reach, the intense temperatures will burn it to a sad, dead crisp. “In either case, our planet will be pretty close to the surface of the red giant, which is not good for life,” Scudder said.

From red giant to white dwarf

Once the sun has emptied its fuel reserves, it will become unstable and start to pulse. With every pulse, the sun will shrug off layers of its outer atmosphere until all that's left is a cold, heavy core, surrounded by a planetary nebula.

With each passing day this core, known as a white dwarf, will cool and fade hopelessly out of existence as if it didn't host the most lively planet ever discovered in the sweeping canvas of the universe.

Is quarantine necessary?

The practice of isolating people or animals suspected to be carrying an infectious disease is not new

History

➤ In 1348, Venice established the first official quarantine system in order to keep the bubonic plague, or “Black Death” from spreading through its ports. A Venetian council was given the authority to prevent ships, cargo, and people suspected of infection from entering the city for 40 days. During this time, the city built a holding centre on an island off the coast, where infected individuals were sent to either wait out their 40-day trial, or die. This isolation period became known as quarantine, taken from the Italian word for ‘40’.

The largest quarantine in human history

➤ The Wuhan coronavirus has resulted in the largest quarantine in human history. China has quarantined 16 cities to



try and contain the Wuhan coronavirus, putting an estimated 46 million people on lockdown.

➤ On January 23, authorities in Wuhan shut down the city's public transportation, including buses, trains, ferries, and the airport. But some experts fear the quarantine may have come too late, or could even make the situation worse, by making access to food, fuel, and medical supplies more difficult.

IS IT A VIOLATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES?

Quarantine is inevitably a conflict between individual civil liberties and public health. Critics of quarantine say incremental restrictions, enforced steadily and transparently, tend to work far better than draconian measures, particularly in enlisting the public's cooperation, which is especially important for properly handling outbreaks in our interconnected, globalised world.

Why quarantine healthy people?

➤ We don't yet have vaccines to treat the fast-spreading coronavirus. Isolating sick people is an effective way to reduce transmission of a virus. With many viruses, an infected person is only able to infect other people when they are showing symptoms of the disease. ➤ However, with some viruses, the virus can spread in the absence of symptoms – either during the incubation period (days before people become visibly ill, believed to be up to 14 days in the case of coronavirus) or in people who never show any signs of severe illness.

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Smartphones: Binding us in shackles

A movie? A ticket? News? Weather? Traffic? Your homework? A call? All this and more is now available on our smartphones. Unfortunately, not all of us know the dangers of this modern convenience. While it has connected us to unknown people, we have lost time for our loved ones. What's more, I have observed my parents, siblings and myself sitting occupied with our mobile phones in the same room. It's sad how we don't have time for our families. Weekends go in chatting, posting, liking and commenting on the lives of other people. Forget about going on picnics or just sitting and talking to each other, we can't even have our meals together! Life was much more peaceful and enjoyable when smartphones didn't exist. As a class XI student I have seen this transition from a 'no smartphone' era to today. And when I draw a comparison I feel depressed.



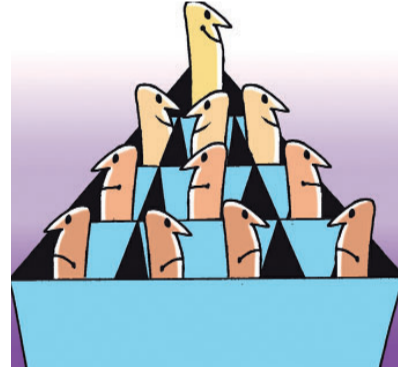
Back in those days when I had nothing to do, I remember going to the park. But today we call ourselves busy only when we are hooked to these gadgets. And there's no time for physical excursions either.

RABIA KHAN, class XI, Bluebells School
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Right to Equality?

It is saddening, as a young citizen of India, to see that while people in our country speak of 'Right to Equality' we have reservations based on the caste of a person. Is this really what equality stands for?

Equality should not only mean everyone has



a right to education, but that everyone should have equal opportunities in any field. Social upliftment should apply to a person who is economically backward and not to a person who claims to be socially backward. How can we think of becoming an advanced country when our citizens are being superficially discriminated on the basis of their 'social status'?

P SREEMAYI, class VIII, Sishu Griha
Montessori and High School, Bengaluru

Live to the fullest

When was the last time you went for a walk in the garden, just for fresh air, or an unplanned midnight trip to the ice cream store, or just simply re-reading your favourite book? Are we so caught up in life that we have forgotten to live it? Enjoying those small moments, cherishing memories, sharing love! Working hard for success is an important trait, but is losing yourself in the process right? We are all caught up in a rat race. But, if you strain yourself in the journey itself, will you have any energy left to enjoy the victory? Nothing is more important than you are. Remember you have to live with yourself forever! Take out some time for yourself. Maybe just 10 minutes. Just relax and don't forget to live!

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